

OCT 21 1999

Statement to the Department of Energy
October 21, 1999

My name is Steve Goldberg of Atlanta.

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below

I am here tonight to express my anger and concern over the DOE's plans to ship nuclear waste by rail, through residential areas, to Yucca Mountain. Your own studies have shown that Yucca Mountain is not the place to store nuclear waste. Transporting nuclear waste by rail over great distances also shows flawed thinking. Statistics show that accidents will occur -- and even if they don't, people living near these rail lines will be exposed to higher levels of radiation throughout their lives.

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I live on Arizona Avenue in the city of Atlanta in DeKalb County, just across the street from the proposed rail route. I also work downtown in a building that straddles the rail line. I do not want myself, my wife and our 3 1/2 year old son exposed to the dangers and risks associated with transporting nuclear waste. I am also concerned that our tax dollars could go to support what is essentially a welfare program for private utilities, and that as a taxpayer in a democracy, I and my family stand to be negatively affected by this program.

Frankly, I wonder whether the government and industry would be so eager to pursue this plan if the nuclear waste was going to be transported and buried near the homes of our public officials and government CEOs.

Please do not misunderstand me. Yes, I disagree with nuclear power, and wonder in amazement as our society continues to plunge headlong into technologies that create problems we are not capable of solving.

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But my prime motivation for my being here tonight is the safety of myself and my family. I urge you -- please do not go through with your plans to transport nuclear waste through residential areas to Yucca Mountain. Thank you.

